Region (DONER) and the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), all the expenditure in respect of the Dr. B. Barooah Cancer Institute (BBCI), Guwahati are being met by the North Eastern Council (NEC) through the budget of DONER, DAE and the Government of Assam (GOA) under the Revitalization Programme (RP). As per provisions of the RP Phase-II which is in force till 31.3.04, the recurring expenditure of the Institute is shared by all the 3 funding agencies @33.3% and the non-recurring expenditure @45% each by DAE and DONER and 10% by Government of Assam.

Apart from the above, the Institute is also being extended financial assistance by this Ministry under the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) from time to time.

Health Schemes for Senior Citizens

547. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the health schemes launched by Government for providing medical assistance to the senior citizens/pensioners during the last two years;

(b) whether Government propose to introduce any new health schemes to provide better medical facilities to the senior citizens/pensioners in near future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The Universal Health Insurance Scheme announced in the Union Budget 2003–04 is a scheme to benefit poor by insuring their health care requirements at a premium of Rupee one per day. It provides for reimbursement of medical expenses up to Rupees thrity thousand. This Scheme can be used by old people up to 65 years of age.

The Government has also announced National Health Policy 2002 with an objective to achieve an acceptable standard of good health amongst the general population inciuding the Geriatric population of the country. Further, the Central Government pensioners can opt for the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) wherein they can get free

medical treatment on payment of a nominal fee in the areas covered under the Scheme. The pensioners residing in areas not covered under CGHS are eligible for a fixed medical allowance to cover cost of their outdoor treatment.

The steps taken in the implementation of the National Policy on Older Persons, brought out in 1999 included making of provisions of adequate health care facilities to senior citizens of the country. Besides, medical facilities are free for everyone including the senior citizens/ pensioners in the Government hospitals.

Admission in Medical Colleges

548. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to allow some medical colleges to admit students inspite of negative inspection reports by the Medical Council of India (MCI);

(b) if so, the names of such colleges and reasons for overriding the recommendations of MCI; and

(c) the details of the applicants where the MCI has not cleared the setting up of colleges in various States as on the 31st October, 2003 with the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The Central Government in exercise of the powers vested with it under section 10(a)(4) of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 renewed the permission for admission of fresh batch of students for the academic year 2003-04 in the existing medical colleges after taking into account all the relevant factors including the written submissions made by the State Government and the Institutions concerned. The list of medical colleges wherein permission was renewed is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) As per information given by the Medical Council of India, they have not cleared for setting up of the following medical colleges in view of various deficiencies noted during inspection of these colleges:—

1. Medical College at Warangal by Medicare Educational Trust, Warangal.